



Friday 16 July 2021

Headteacher's Update

This is the last weekly update of 2020-21. I hope you have found this weekly communication useful. We will of course be continuing it in the next academic year and we are hoping to improve it further by ensuring all essential information is included in it and you aren't having to constantly check other sources to see what school is trying to let you know. We will continue to use ClassCharts also so you can have a daily update on how your son / daughter is doing at all times.

This has indeed been the most difficult and challenging year in our life time and in the whole history of education. Despite all of the challenges, the students and staff at St Cuthbert's have demonstrated incredible qualities throughout. These qualities have helped to forge us and we are better placed now than ever before to fulfil our mission 'to be the best that we can be.' I would just like to thank all of the children for their patience, cooperation, resilience and adaptability. I would also like to thank parents for exactly the same thing and for ensuring your children are the type of character they are.

You will of course be aware that COVID-19 restrictions in educational settings are soon to be lifted. You may be relieved by this news, or you may be worried about what it will mean for you and your loved ones. The impact of COVID-19 restrictions on children and young people has been massive. We know it's been a difficult time for families, particularly in the last few weeks when we've seen a huge increase in the number of children and young people testing positive for COVID-19. This is largely because of the Delta variant, which spreads much more easily than previous variants. We've never seen so many COVID-19 cases in children locally, nor so many children isolating, with some being asked to isolate multiple times.

While the restrictions are ending, COVID -19 is not. The vaccine programme is a huge success and the risk of people with the virus getting seriously ill and needing hospital care has reduced significantly. Not everyone is fully vaccinated yet and most under 18s aren't eligible. Some vulnerable people have health problems that mean they can't have the vaccine, or it doesn't work as well for them. None of us want to return to remote learning, and we all want to protect our loved ones and support people that provide services that we depend on.

In order to ensure we are all safe when we return it is therefore essential that we continue to test and under no circumstances send anyone to school who has any symptoms. We will still have a COVID risk assessment in September which will be on our website and an 'Outbreak Management Plan' which will come into force if we have any concerns about the spread of the virus.

When we return in September there will in many ways be a return to a much more normal school experience for everyone. There will however be some major changes too. Due to the inappropriate use of phones by some students, mobile phones will not be allowed to be used at all during the school day. Students can have phones with them but they must be switched off and out of sight at all times. We know many of you feel happier that your children have phones and there is no intention at all to say they can't have them at school but we do need to limit their use and at no time are phones essential during the school day. We can facilitate any contact between students and parents that is required. This is far from an uncommon rule in schools and is increasingly the view that the government has on mobile phones in school.

When students return we will also be extremely focused on standards. This includes an expectation that students will at all times comply with uniform requirements and behaviour rules. The vast majority of our

students always comply with these expectations. At St Cuthbert's we aim for everyone to comply with these expectations and I know we will get your support to ensure the school has standards we can all be proud of.

When students return they are also able to have two lateral flow tests at school if you consent to this (see relevant form). Please see the communication with specific details of when students can come in for these tests. Some of the dates are actually before students are due to return in September. If you do not consent to these tests please ensure you do them at home so that you can be sure all children are safe to return on the relevant date (see dates below).

I want to wish you all the very best of school holidays. I hope you are all able to safely take advantage of the end of COVID restrictions. I sincerely hope all of our students are able to have a much improved summer holiday this year and return well refreshed and happier for the new school year in September.

Mr Shields

Notices

Catholic Life of the School

Prayer for the End of the School Year

At the end of this school year we give thanks to God;

For all the teaching and learning that has taken place in our school,

Both in and out of the classroom.

For the talents and gifts that have been shared and the challenges that have been faced;

For the burdens that have been lifted and the hurts that have been healed;

For the respect and care that has been given.

We give thanks for the friendships that we have made and continue to grow.

Father, we ask that you look after our school family during the summer break;

We pray we return safely,

Refreshed and energised for a new school year.

Weekly Assembly

- All students will participate in an end of year Liturgy and rewards assembly on Wednesday 21.07.21

COVID Updates

- Current government guidance recommends that face coverings are worn on dedicated school buses when prevalence is high. We will keep families updated on this guidance.

Curriculum

Examinations

- Year 10 and Year 11 students and their parents/guardians will receive a communication regarding GCSE results day and the appeals process. This communication will be a letter sent via email and a narrated power point sent via class charts. This will also be available on the school website from 19/07/2021.

Pastoral Notices

End of Term: Wednesday 21st July:

- School will close to all students at 12 noon on Wednesday 21st July 2021. Students will also have the option to wear non-uniform on this day and will celebrate their resilience in overcoming the adversity and uncertainty they have faced over the last 12 months.
- The following buses will run at 12 noon from the school bus bay:
 - 890 Birch Hill
 - 891 Shore
 - 894 Littleborough
 - 887 Lane Head

Services that will not be running at 12 noon, are:

- 862 Syke
- 867 Falinge
- 880 Norden

There will be two 409 buses in our school bus bay for any child who needs to use this service but please could you ensure you have made suitable travel arrangements for your son/daughter.

Arrangements for September 2021

- The Government has advised all secondary schools that a staggered return can be adopted to ensure students have taken two COVID tests on their return, 3-5 days apart.
- To do this in a safe, controlled and timely manner, if you wish for your child to take part in the tests please return the consent form that will be sent via email. Due to it being a new academic year we will not be using consent that was given in March 2021. Only students who have prior consent will be tested.
- Year 8- 11 parents have received a letter and electronic consent via RS Connect on 15.07.21
- Parents of our new Year 7 Intake will an LFT letter and electronic consent by 19.07.21
- **Please return electronic consent by Monday 19th July.**
- If families are due to be away at these times, we would advise that a lateral flow test is taken the evening before they are due to return to school.
- Students will be met by staff and directed to where they will be tested during their allocated time slot. Please do not arrive outside of the allocated time slot.

- **Years 8 & 9** will have their first test on **Monday 6th September** during the staff training day:

Form Groups	LFT Slot
Year 8	
8.1 – 8.4	11am – 11.45am
8.5 – 8.9	11.45am – 12.30pm
Year 9	
9.1 – 9.4	1.15pm – 2.00pm

9.5 – 9.9	2.00pm – 2.45pm
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Tuesday 7th September: Our school gates open from 7.55am

- **Year 7** will attend all day so that they are able to have a transition day that they have missed. This will allow them to spend time with their form tutors and key staff as well as get to know the school environment. Those who have consented will have their first test during Tuesday 7th September.
- **Years 10 & 11** will have their first test on **Tuesday 7th September** during the Year 7 Induction Day:

Form Groups	LFT Slot
Year 10	
10.1 – 10.4	11am – 11.45am
10.5 – 10.9	11.45am – 12.30pm
Year 11	
11.1 – 11.4	1.15pm – 2.00pm
11.5 – 11.9	2.00pm – 2.45pm

Wednesday 8th September: All school gates will now open from 7.55am

- **All** students are in school for the remainder of the week.
- KS3 (7/8/9) to enter through the KS3 entrance and KS4 (10/11) to enter through the KS4 entrance. Students are to be on site by 8.20am where they will be met by key staff and form tutors.
- Students **MUST** be in full school uniform, please refer to our [uniform list](#), and attend school with the correct equipment and a suitable school bag.
- Students should not be in trainers (black Nike Air Force One). Students should have all facial piercings removed as well as false/artificial nails and false eye lashes.
- **Students will not be allowed to use mobile phones when on the school site; these should be switched off and out of sight during the school day otherwise they will be confiscated immediately. A copy of our mobile phone policy can be found on our [website](#).**
- **Years 8 & 9** will have their second test, if they had their first one in school, on **Thursday 9th September** during the school day.
- **Years 7, 10 & 11** will have their second test on **Friday 10th September** during the school day.

Bus Timetables 2021 – 2022

- Please see link [Transport | St Cuthbert's RC High School \(scrchs.net\)](https://www.scrchs.net) for school bus timetables from September 2021 – July 2022

Wellbeing

- Please see the wellbeing area on our website (<https://www.scrchs.net/wellbeing>) which contains information on how to support you and your child's wellbeing.

Twitter

- Please follow us on @RcCuthberts to keep up to date on all that is going on at St Cuthbert's.

